UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/46/1
3 August 1999

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-sixth session
Geneva, 18 October 1999
Item 1 (b) of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the forty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

GE.99-52609

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   (d) Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Board

2. Preparatory process for the tenth session of the Conference:
   - Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: trade, growth and external financing in developing countries

4. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and review of the status of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

6. Technical cooperation activities:

   (a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
   (b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

7. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   (a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries
   (b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-second annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

8. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Review of the calendar of meetings
   (b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

9. Other business

10. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Procedural matters

1. The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

(a) Election of officers

2. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall consist of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur (i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended).

3. In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the President of the Board for the forty-sixth session shall be a representative of one of the States in List B and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List A (Africa). The 10 Vice-presidents shall therefore be - 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 3 from List B; 2 from List C; and 2 from List D.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

4. The provisional agenda for the current session is reproduced in section I above.

Organization of work

5. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been designed so that no two meetings take place at a given time. They have also been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly that of small delegations, and most efficient use of conference resources.

Establishment of sessional committees

6. In accordance with rule 62 of its Rules of Procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. The proposed allocation of items between the plenary and sessional committees, in accordance with rule 13, is indicated in annex I of this document.

Schedule of meetings

7. The table in annex II below shows the overall timetable for the two-week period. It is understood that this schedule should be flexible to take into account developments during the session.

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials

8. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Board

9. The draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Board will be submitted by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this to the Consultations of the Bureau and Coordinators.

In-session documentation

Item 2 Preparatory process for the tenth session of the Conference
- Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

10. In accordance with past practice, the Board will establish a Preparatory Committee of the Whole under the chairmanship of the President of the Board in order to prepare *inter alia* the pre-conference text. The reports of the regional preparatory meetings and other documents presented by member States will be made available to the Preparatory Committee. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD's report to the Conference, as well as background documents from the pre-Conference events and other reports of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD will also be made available.

11. The Preparatory Committee will establish an Organizational Committee under the chairmanship of the Host Country, and the Organizational Committee's report will be made available to the Preparatory Committee in the course of its work. The Preparatory Committee may establish other working groups to deal with substantive items. It is expected that the preparatory process will be completed by mid-December.

12. The final report of the Preparatory Committee will be presented to the twenty-third executive session on 17 December 1999, which will be the final session of the Board prior to the Conference.

13. The Host Country will also make a presentation as part of the preparations for UNCTAD X.

In-session documentation

Item 3 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: trade, growth and external financing in developing countries

14. In recent years there has been a tendency for economic growth to be associated with higher external deficits in many developing countries. In attempting to explain this phenomenon, special attention should be paid to the effects on imports and exports of trade, exchange-rate and financial policies in developing countries, movements in their terms of trade, and expansion of and access to industrial-country markets that are of interest to developing countries. While there has also been an increase in capital flows (including foreign direct investment) to developing countries, these flows are highly concentrated in a small number of countries, and an important part is volatile and thus unreliable as a source of development finance. The item will focus on the policies that need to be pursued both at the national and the international levels in the areas of trade and finance in order to address the mismatch between external financing requirements and the availability of sustainable sources of financing for development.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/1999 and Overview — *Trade and Development Report, 1999*

Item 4 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and review of the status of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

15. "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377), adopted at UNCTAD IX, provides in paragraph 107(c) that the Board will review at its annual sessions progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

16. For the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Board will have before it the *Least Developed Countries 1999 Report*. The main theme of the *Report* is improving productive capacity of LDCs and enhancing their competitiveness. Part I of the *Report* will deal with trends in socio-economic developments in LDCs and review the impact of the implementation of the Programme of Action on LDCs. Part II, comprising four chapters, will focus on marginalization and productive capacities in LDCs and make recommendations on international support measures necessary to enhance productive capacity and competitiveness in LDCs.

17. For the review of the status of the preparatory process for the Third UN Conference on LDCs, the Board will have before it the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly being prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/182. The report will review the proposed preparatory process at the country regional and global level.

Documentation

UNCTAD/LDC/1999 and Overview	*The Least Developed Countries 1999 Report*

Item 5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

18. In accordance with conclusions 454(XLV) of the forty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board, which agreed, inter alia, that UNCTAD should continue to explore the links between trade, international transport and African economic growth, the Board will have before it a document which discusses the implications of high costs of transport for African competitiveness and trade, and policy options to reduce this key supply-side constraint. A central issue will be the case for regional and subregional approaches to infrastructure development. The document will draw on experiences in Africa and elsewhere.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/1999 and Overview	*Trade and Development Report, 1999*, (Part II)

Item 6 Technical cooperation activities:

(a) Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

19. In accordance with paragraph 107(b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", the Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 1998, as well as considering developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, including cooperation with other organizations and trends in the mobilization of resources. The Board will be assisted in this matter by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget which, at its thirty-fourth session (first part), to be held from 27 September to 1 October 1999, will conduct a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 1998.

20. The secretariat's report to the Board will include information on the above issues. It will also include a review of the utilization of capacities from developing countries in technical cooperation and information on the financial sustainability of selected technical cooperation programmes based on document TD/B/EX(21)/CRP.1 discussed at the twenty-first executive session of the Trade and Development Board on 1 July 1999. The report will also include proposals relative to the simplification of the rolling three-year technical cooperation plan and information on the evaluation of technical cooperation programmes undertaken in 1998.

Documentation

TD/B/46/3- TD/B/WP/117	Overview of technical cooperation activities
TD/B/46/3- TD/B/WP/117/Add.1	Annex I- Review of activities undertaken in 1998 (English only)
TD/B/46/3- TD/B/WP/117/Add.2	Statistical tables (English only)

(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

21. In line with the United Nations medium term plan for the period 1998-2001, the UNCTAD secretariat will "continue the work of UNCTAD, in accordance with its mandate, in assisting the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy-making and management pertaining to international trade, investment and related services." In accordance with the biennial programme budgets for 1996-1997 and 1998-1999, the secretariat programmed one report to the Board on this item for each biennium. Accordingly, a "Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people" (TD/B/44/10) was presented to the forty-fourth session of the Board. In addition, a subitem was included on the agenda of the forty-fifth session of the Board, under which an informal "Progress report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people"(TD/B/45/CRP.1) was presented.

22. Pursuant to the provisions of the 1998-1999 programme budget, the secretariat has prepared its latest report to the Trade and Development Board on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people. The report highlights key aspects of the performance of the Palestinian economy and external trade sector, as well as a brief assessment of achievements of the reconstruction and development process in the interim period and persistent problem areas. This is followed by a review of UNCTAD's technical cooperation programme in favour of the Palestinian people, covering project activities under implementation and unfunded project proposals awaiting implementation.

23. In taking note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat, the Board may wish to focus attention on the need to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to implement priority projects of assistance to the Palestinian people proposed by the secretariat. In accordance with subparagraph (c) of General Assembly decision 47/445, the Board may also wish decide that a summary of the discussions under this item should be annexed to the report of Board to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/46/5 Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people

Item 7 Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

24. Paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 52/183 invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the resolution. In this regard, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD requested information on the activities undertaken to promote effective transit-transport systems from the land-locked, transit and other developing countries, as well as from donor countries and international institutions, and relevant replies and the results of UNCTAD's ongoing work in this area are reflected in a "Progress report by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/46/7). This report will subsequently be submitted to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly under cover of a note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

25. Furthermore, General Assembly resolution 52/183, in paragraph 11, requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries with representatives of donor countries, financial and development institutions in 1999. The Meeting was held under the auspices of UNCTAD from 24 to 26 August 1999 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

26. The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Meeting, endorse its conclusions and recommendations, and thereafter submit these conclusions and recommendations, together with the progress report by the UNCTAD secretariat referred to above, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Documentation

TD/B/46/7	Progress report by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/46/6- TD/B/LDC/AC.1/15	Report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, New York, 24 - 26 August 1999

(b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-second annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

27. The thirty-second session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in Vienna from 17 May to 4 June 1999. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/46/8	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 8 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Review of the calendar of meetings

28. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1999 and up to the end of UNCTAD X (February 2000). It will also have an indicative calendar for the rest of 2000

Documentation

TD/B/46/CRP.1	Review of the calendar of meetings

(b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

29. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 9 Other business

Item 10 Adoption of the report

30. In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.

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Annex I

ALLOCATION OF ITEMS

Plenary

1(a) Election of officers
1(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session
1(c) Adoption of the report on credentials
1(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Board

2 Preparatory process for the tenth session of the Conference:
- Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

3 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: trade, growth and external financing in developing countries

6(a) Review of technical cooperation activities in UNCTAD
6(b) Consideration of other relevant reports: Report of UNCTAD's assistance to Palestinian people

7(a) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries
7(b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: thirty-second annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

8(a) Review of the calendar of meetings
8(b) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

9 Other business

10 Adoption of the report

Sessional Committee I

4 Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and review of the status of the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries

Sessional Committee II

5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
(18 - 29 October 1999)

1st week	Monday 18/10	Tuesday 19/10	Wednesday 20/10	Thursday 21/10	Friday 23/10
10 .00 a.m.	PLENARY (Opening)	INFORMALS (Item 3)	SC II (Item 5) Africa	SC II (Item 5)	SC I (Item 4)
3.00 p.m.	PLENARY (Item 3) Interdependence	INFORMALS (Item 3)	SC II (Item 5)	SC I (Item 4) LDCs	SC I (Item 4)

Second week	Monday 25/10	Tuesday 26/10	Wednesday 27/10	Thursday 28/10	Friday 29/10
10.00 a.m.	PLENARY (Item 2) Establishment of Preparatory Committee of the Whole	PREPARATORY COMMITTEE	PREPARATORY COMMITTEE	PREPARATORY COMMITTEE	PLENARY (Item 6) (Item 7) (Item 8)
3.00 p.m.	PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR UNCTAD X	PREPARATORY COMMITTEE	PREPARATORY COMMITTEE	PREPARATORY COMMITTEE	Adoption of Reports SC I & SCII PLENARY - Closing of all items - Adoption of the Report